

## PSALM 119

### *Meditations and Prayers Relating to the Law of God.*

#### INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (8-21-96).
- B. Coffman describes this psalm:

“Psalm 119 is an acrostic to end all acrostics! There are twenty-two strophes, or paragraphs, corresponding to the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each of the strophes has eight lines, or verses, and every one of the lines in each strophe begins with the appropriate Hebrew letter marking that stanza. The first eight lines begin with ALEPH, the second eight with BETH, and so on throughout the 176 lines of the Psalm. Kinder named the following as the nine acrostic psalms of the Psalter: ‘9,10,25,34,37,111,112,119 and 145.’”
- C. Late critics have dated the psalm near the Babylonian captivity or later, while earlier commentators point out poetic usage(s) which seem to indicate an earlier date. Many find characteristics that seem appropriate for David.
- D. Besides the acrostic form, the most outstanding characteristic of the poem is the repetition of so many synonyms for God’s “law.”
  1. Coffman cites Leupold listing ten synonyms in the KJV: “Law, word, saying, commandment, statute, ordinance, precept, testimony, way, and path.” The first eight of these occur twenty times or more.
  2. I counted in NKJ the following words in frequency: “word(s)” - 41 times, “law” - 25, “testimonies” - 23, “statutes” - 22, “commandments” - 22, “precepts” - 21, “judgments” - 18, “way” - 5, “ordinances” - 2, and “justice” - 1. As McCullough said, “God is either addressed or referred to in every one of the 176 verses.”
  3. The “law” referred to in this psalm does not seem to refer to the first five books by Moses, but to all of God’s word. This is the way the word “law” is often used in the NT. In Jn. 10:34, Jesus said, “It is written in your law,…” and quotes from Psa. 82:6. In Jn. 15:25 Jesus refers to “their law” and quotes either Psa. 35:19 or 69:4. In 1Cor. 14:21, Paul quotes Isa. 23:11-12 and refers to it as “the law.”
- E. The acrostic style precludes any logical organization and progress of thought. Coffman adapts the headings for the strophes from those of Briggs in the *International Critical Commentary*.

#### II. TEXT AND COMMENTS.

- A. Happy are Those who Perfectly Obey the Law (119:1-8). (Strophe 1, *Aleph*).

How blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
Who walk in the law of the LORD.

2 How blessed are those who observe His testimonies,  
Who seek Him with all *their* heart.

3 They also do no unrighteousness;  
They walk in His ways.

4 You have ordained Your precepts,  
That we should keep *them* diligently.

5 Oh that my ways may be established  
To keep Your statutes!

6 Then I shall not be ashamed  
When I look upon all Your commandments.

7 I shall give thanks to You with uprightness of heart,  
When I learn Your righteous judgments.

8 I shall keep Your statutes;  
Do not forsake me utterly!

**[v1-8]** This stringing together unrelated thoughts of the psalmist is the typical pattern of the acrostic.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren, *Pulpit Helps*, February, 1995, gives a summary of Psa. 119. He gives, "Reasons You Should Be in the Book:

1. The Bible reveals blessings (119:1,2).
2. The Bible prevents sin (119:3).  
The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible.
3. The Bible provides direction in life (119:4,5).
4. The Bible prevents shame (119:6).
5. The Bible produces an upright heart (119:7,8)."

B. He Observes it with Heart, Lip, and Way, and Rejoices in It (119:9-16). (Strophe 2, *Beth*).

How can a young man keep his way pure?

By keeping *it* according to Your word.

- 10** With all my heart I have sought You;  
Do not let me wander from Your commandments.
- 11** Your word I have treasured in my heart,  
That I may not sin against You.
- 12** Blessed are You, O LORD;  
Teach me Your statutes.
- 13** With my lips I have told of  
All the ordinances of Your mouth.
- 14** I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies,  
As much as in all riches.
- 15** I will meditate on Your precepts  
And regard Your ways.
- 16** I shall delight in Your statutes;  
I shall not forget Your word.

**[9-16]** Ray Warren says, "When You Are Ashamed of Your Life:

1. Obtain cleansing (119:9).
2. Establish the correct direction (119:10).
3. Memorize Scripture (119:11).
4. Learn the statutes of the Lord (119:12).
5. Teach the 'right' that you know (119:13).
6. Mediate on Bible principles (119:15)."

C. God's Law is Counselor Against Plotting Princes (119:17-24). (Strophe 3, *Gimel*).

Deal bountifully with Your servant,  
That I may live and keep Your word.

- 18** Open my eyes, that I may behold  
Wonderful things from Your law.
- 19** I am a stranger in the earth;  
Do not hide Your commandments from me.
- 20** My soul is crushed with longing  
After Your ordinances at all times.
- 21** You rebuke the arrogant, the cursed,  
Who wander from Your commandments.
- 22** Take away reproach and contempt from me,  
For I observe Your testimonies.
- 23** Even though princes sit *and* talk against me,  
Your servant meditates on Your statutes.
- 24** Your testimonies also are my delight;  
*They are* my counselors.

**[23]** "Princes also sit and speak against me..." This certainly reminds us of the persecution of David by Saul and his princes.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, "When You Suffer Reproach":

1. Live and keep the Word (119:17).
2. Maintain your hunger for the Word (119:18,19).
3. Keep your perspective concerning judgment (119:20,21).
4. Keep the testimonies of the Word (119:22).
5. Meditate in the statutes of the Word (119:23)."

D. Prayer for Strengthening and for Deliverance from Humiliation (119:25-32). (Strophe 4, DALETH).

My soul cleaves to the dust;

Revive me according to Your word.

**26** I have told of my ways, and You have answered me;

Teach me Your statutes.

**27** Make me understand the way of Your precepts,

So I will meditate on Your wonders.

**28** My soul weeps because of grief;

Strengthen me according to Your word.

**29** Remove the false way from me,

And graciously grant me Your law.

**30** I have chosen the faithful way;

I have placed Your ordinances *before me*.

**31** I cling to Your testimonies;

O LORD, do not put me to shame!

**32** I shall run the way of Your commandments,

For You will enlarge my heart.

**[v25-32]** The acrostic style not only forces a lack of logical structure, but a stringing of various lines on the general theme. It also is marked with a great deal of repetition. This not only emphasizes those important points, but ties the theme together. Coffman reports that Cheyne called this "It is a sweetly monotonous meditation." That reminds us of "mood music" which often is widely varied and repetitious on a theme. One example of this repetition is the last part of verse 25 which is repeated in several other lines: "Revive me according to Your word."

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, "When Burdens Are Heavy:

1. Rely on the Word to quicken (revive) you (119:25).
2. Rely on the Word for direction (119:26).
3. Rely on the Word for application (119:27).
4. Rely on the Word for strength (119:28)."

E. Prayer that God will teach Him the Law and Turn Him Away from Covetousness (119:33-40).

(Strophe 5, HE).

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes,

And I shall observe it to the end.

**34** Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law

And keep it with all *my* heart.

**35** Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,

For I delight in it.

**36** Incline my heart to Your testimonies

And not to *dishonest* gain.

**37** Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity,

And revive me in Your ways.

**38** Establish Your word to Your servant,

As that which produces reverence for You.

**39** Turn away my reproach which I dread,

For Your ordinances are good.

**40** Behold, I long for Your precepts;

Revive me through Your righteousness.

**[v37]** "Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things..." Although there is considerable repetition for emphasis and to fit the acrostic pattern, there is occasionally a fresh idea like this one.

The “lust of the eye” is one of the three common ways that we are tempted. Satan used this appeal for Eve in the Garden and for Christ after His baptism. Jesus warned that a man should not “look on a woman to lust after her.” See also Prov. 23:31; Isa. 33:15; Job 31:1.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says,

“When You Desire to Be Consistent, Inconsistency Is Your Enemy’s First Weapon:

1. Develop a consistency concerning your eyes (119:33).
2. Develop a consistency concerning your mind (119:34).
3. Develop a consistency concerning your feet (119:35).
4. Develop a consistency concerning your heart (119:36).”

F. A Promise to Trust in the Law and a Vow to Serve it With Delight and Love (119:41-48).  
(Strophe 6, VAV).

May Your lovingkindnesses also come to me, O LORD,

Your salvation according to Your word;

**42** So I will have an answer for him who reproaches me,  
For I trust in Your word.

**43** And do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,  
For I wait for Your ordinances.

**44** So I will keep Your law continually,  
Forever and ever.

**45** And I will walk at liberty,  
For I seek Your precepts.

**46** I will also speak of Your testimonies before kings  
And shall not be ashamed.

**47** I shall delight in Your commandments,  
Which I love.

**48** And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments,  
Which I love;  
And I will meditate on Your statutes.

**[v41-48]** Warren says, “When You Want Higher Ground with God:

1. Think on the Word (119:41).  
There is a relationship of God’s mercies to God’s Word.
2. Trust the Word (119:42).  
Maturity depends on trusting God at His Word.
3. Hope in the Word (119:43).  
Higher ground learns to accept the warnings (judgments) of God’s Word.
4. Obey the Word (119:44).  
You obey the Book to the extent that you decide to obey.
5. Walk in the Word (119:45).  
Your talk talks. Your walk walks. But your walk talks louder than your talk talks.
6. Talk of the Word (119:46).  
You reach higher ground by speaking of the ground that is higher.

G. Proud Seducers Torment Law Keepers but cannot Deprive Them of Comfort and Joy (119:49-56).  
(Strophe 7, ZAYIN).

Remember the word to Your servant,

In which You have made me hope.

**50** This is my comfort in my affliction,  
That Your word has revived me.

**51** The arrogant utterly deride me,  
Yet I do not turn aside from Your law.

**52** I have remembered Your ordinances from of old, O LORD,  
And comfort myself.

**53** Burning indignation has seized me because of the wicked,

Who forsake Your law.

54 Your statutes are my songs

In the house of my pilgrimage.

55 O LORD, I remember Your name in the night,

And keep Your law.

56 This has become mine,

That I observe Your precepts.

**[v51]** “The proud have me in great derision, yet I do not turn aside from Your law.” Those who are proud are also often arrogant and disrespectful. The psalmist remains faithful in spite of persecution.

**[v53]** “Indignation has taken hold of me because of the wicked...” We should find wickedness repulsive and unattractive, but this is often not so.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, “When afflicted:

1. Take hope in the Word (119:49).
2. Take comfort in the Word (119:50).
3. Take commitment to the Word (119:51).
4. Take remembrance in the Word (119:52).
5. Take horror in the Word (119:53).
6. Take songs out of the Word (119:54).
7. Take obedience in the Word (119:55).”

H. Despite the Encroachment of Wickedness, the Psalmist Maintains Fellowship with Law Observers.  
(119:57-64). (Strophe 8, HETH).

The LORD is my portion;

I have promised to keep Your words.

58 I sought Your favor with all *my* heart;

Be gracious to me according to Your word.

59 I considered my ways

And turned my feet to Your testimonies.

60 I hastened and did not delay

To keep Your commandments.

61 The cords of the wicked have encircled me,

*But* I have not forgotten Your law.

62 At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You

Because of Your righteous ordinances.

63 I am a companion of all those who fear You,

And of those who keep Your precepts.

64 The earth is full of Your lovingkindness, O LORD;

Teach me Your statutes.

**[v61]** “The cords of the wicked have bound me...” The devil and his agents are always trying to ensnare us. It is only through God’s word that we can have the strength and knowledge to resist evil suggestions, and do right.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, “When You Wish to Avoid Spiritual Shipwreck,

1. Decide to obey (119:57).
2. Decide to have whole-hearted prayer (119:58).
3. Decide to have thoughtful self-evaluation (119:59).
4. Decide to obey without delay or argument (119:60).
5. Decide to obey despite others (119:61).
6. Decide to spend your nights with God (119:62).
7. Decide to spend your days with God’s people (119:63).”

I. Afflictions from Proud Enemies cannot Deny God’s Goodness, Nor Good Works (119:65-72).  
(Strophe 9, TETH).

You have dealt well with Your servant,

O LORD, according to Your word.

66 Teach me good discernment and knowledge,  
 For I believe in Your commandments.  
 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray,  
 But now I keep Your word.  
 68 You are good and do good;  
 Teach me Your statutes.  
 69 The arrogant have forged a lie against me;  
 With all *my* heart I will observe Your precepts.  
 70 Their heart is covered with fat,  
*But* I delight in Your law.  
 71 It is good for me that I was afflicted,  
 That I may learn Your statutes.  
 72 The law of Your mouth is better to me  
 Than thousands of gold and silver *pieces*.

**[v66]** “Teach me good judgment and knowledge...” This is emphasized throughout the psalm.

**[v67]** “Before I was afflicted I went astray...” One of the most difficult situations man has to deal with is prosperity and success. It gives us the most difficult temptations to lead us away from God.

**[v71]** “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.” We find it easier to turn to God and depend on Him when we have hardship that we see no way of dealing with by ourselves.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, “When You Are Disciplined by God:

1. Realize the “good” of discipline (119:65).
2. Realize that poor judgment and lack of knowledge cause discipline (119:66).
3. Realize the value of discipline (119:67).
4. Realize that God is good (119:68).
5. Realize that God uses unlikely sources to discipline with (119:69,70).
6. Realize that this is a time to learn (119:71).
7. Realize the eternal perspective of it all (119:72).”

J. Prayer to the Creator that He May Visit the Proud, Not His Servants, with Shame (119:73-80).  
 (Strophe 10, YODH).

Your hands made me and fashioned me;  
 Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.  
 74 May those who fear You see me and be glad,  
 Because I wait for Your word.  
 75 I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are righteous,  
 And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.  
 76 O may Your lovingkindness comfort me,  
 According to Your word to Your servant.  
 77 May Your compassion come to me that I may live,  
 For Your law is my delight.  
 78 May the arrogant be ashamed, for they subvert me with a lie;  
*But* I shall meditate on Your precepts.  
 79 May those who fear You turn to me,  
 Even those who know Your testimonies.  
 80 May my heart be blameless in Your statutes,  
 So that I will not be ashamed.

**[v75]** “I know, O Lord, that Your Judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.” It takes spiritual maturity to realize that we need to be corrected, and that hardship can be a blessing. Even spiritual maturity often does not understand, as was the case of Job.

**[v79]** “Let those who fear You turn to me...” Those with respect for God enjoy being with others who have the same attitude.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, “When You Want to Be God-like, You must know what God is Like:

1. Use God (119:73).  
 He is the Creator and knows how to maximize your productivity.

2. Use prayer (119:74).
3. Use afflictions (119:75).  
Often conformity to the image of Christ can be as painful as discipline.
4. Use comfort (119:76,77).  
Do not ask to be relieved of your burdens, as for comfort to bear your burdens.
5. Use spiritual tools (119:78).  
If we fight Satan's army with Satan's tools, he shall soon defeat us.
6. Use right friends (119:79).  
"As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of a friend" (Prov. 27:17)."

K. The Proud have Almost Triumphed, But He Trusts in the Law and Longs for Salvation (119:81-88).  
(Strophe 11, KAPH).

My soul languishes for Your salvation;

I wait for Your word.

**82** My eyes fail *with longing* for Your word,  
While I say, "When will You comfort me?"

**83** Though I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,  
I do not forget Your statutes.

**84** How many are the days of Your servant?  
When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?

**85** The arrogant have dug pits for me,  
*Men* who are not in accord with Your law.

**86** All Your commandments are faithful;  
They have persecuted me with a lie; help me!

**87** They almost destroyed me on earth,  
But as for me, I did not forsake Your precepts.

**88** Revive me according to Your lovingkindness,  
So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

[v82] "My eyes fail from searching Your word..." This is as Solomon said in Eccl. 12:12.

[Summary] Ray Warren says, "When Persecuted:

1. Keep your salvation (119:81,82)." Paul warns us to "take heed lest you fall (1Cor. 10:12).
2. Do right (119:83).
3. Let God judge the persecutors (119:84).
4. Expect anything from anyone (119:85).
5. Look to God for help (119:86).
6. Let nothing keep you from obedience (119:87)."

L. The Eternity of God's Exceedingly Broad Law is Fixed for Ever in Heaven and on Earth (119:898-96).  
(Strophe 12, LAMEDH).

Forever, O LORD,

Your word is settled in heaven.

**90** Your faithfulness *continues* throughout all generations;  
You established the earth, and it stands.

**91** They stand this day according to Your ordinances,  
For all things are Your servants.

**92** If Your law had not been my delight,  
Then I would have perished in my affliction.

**93** I will never forget Your precepts,  
For by them You have revived me.

**94** I am Yours, save me;  
For I have sought Your precepts.

**95** The wicked wait for me to destroy me;  
I shall diligently consider Your testimonies.

**96** I have seen a limit to all perfection;  
Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

**[v89]** "...Your WORD is settled in heaven." The theme of FHU Lectureship in 1996 was "SETTLED IN HEAVEN" from this verse. We need to be reminded frequently that man cannot change what God decides in heaven. He may reject it, but all the church councils and synods that have ever been convened cannot change one thing from God's word--they can only reject them.

**[v91]** "They continue this day according to Your ordinances..." Coffman points that "they" here seems to refer to the heavens and earth mentioned in the two previous verses, but that the marginal reading of the ASV is "As for thy ordinances, they abide this day" is his preferences.

**[v96]** "...Your commandment is exceedingly broad." Man's wisdom and understanding is often limited on so many things, but God's word will fully equip the man of God for every good work (2Tim. 3:16,17).

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, "When You Are Having a Hard Time of It:

1. Look to the Word (119:89).
2. Look to the physical world (earth) itself (119:90).
3. Look to nature (119:91).
4. Look to the past (119:92,93).
5. Look to the present (119:94).
6. Look to the future (119:95,96)."

M. Oh, How I Love Thy Law (119:97-104). (Strophe 13, MEM).

O how I love Your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

**98** Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies,  
For they are ever mine.

**99** I have more insight than all my teachers,  
For Your testimonies are my meditation.

**100** I understand more than the aged,  
Because I have observed Your precepts.

**101** I have restrained my feet from every evil way,  
That I may keep Your word.

**102** I have not turned aside from Your ordinances,  
For You Yourself have taught me.

**103** How sweet are Your words to my taste!  
Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**104** From Your precepts I get understanding;  
Therefore I hate every false way.

**[v97]** Coffman points out that this strophe is the one that was the basis of the hymn, "Oh How Love I Thy Law," that he selected as the title for this psalm. The title is taken from v97 and other lines from this psalm and others are used for the text of the hymn.

**[v98-100]** The word of God made the psalmist wiser than his enemies (v98), his teachers (v99), and the ancients (v100).

**[v101-104]** The word of God caused the psalmist to refrain from every evil way (v101), to appreciate how sweet God's way is (v103), and given understanding.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, "When You Want to Avoid Evil:

1. Meditate on the word (119:97-99).
2. Remove enticements and hindrances (119:101).
3. Allow God to teach you (119:102).
4. Have the proper diet (119:103-104)."

N. Rejoicing in God's Law as His Inheritance and as a Lamp Exposing Snares of the Wicked (119:105-112). (Strophe 14, NUN).

Your word is a lamp to my feet

And a light to my path.

**106** I have sworn and I will confirm it,

That I will keep Your righteous ordinances.  
**107** I am exceedingly afflicted;  
 Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word.  
**108** O accept the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD,  
 And teach me Your ordinances.  
**109** My life is continually in my hand,  
 Yet I do not forget Your law.  
**110** The wicked have laid a snare for me,  
 Yet I have not gone astray from Your precepts.  
**111** I have inherited Your testimonies forever,  
 For they are the joy of my heart.  
**112** I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes  
 Forever, *even* to the end.

**[v105]** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” One of the most common figures in the Bible and Western Literature is that of living in ignorance being represented as walking in darkness, and having knowledge and truth as walking in light. That figure is never as appropriate as speaking of the spiritual light of God’s word.

**[v108]** “Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth...” Coffman suggests that this is an exciting new idea in the psalm. David often wrote of praising God, as worship and an offering, but it is in the NT that the figure is more fully developed and emphasized with our worship being offered with “fruit of our lips” (Heb. 13:15).

**[v110]** “The wicked have laid a snare for me...” This is also a common image describing Satan’s methods as those by which men trap animals.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, “When Snares Are Laid:

1. Stay with the Book (119:105).
2. Keep your vows (119:106).
3. During conflict look to God (119:107).
4. Keep eternal perspective (119:109).
5. Rely on the precepts to protect you (119:110)
6. Keep a lifetime commitment (119:112).”

O. Reverencing God's Law, and Praying for Support Against Hateful Backsliders (199:113-120).  
 (Strophe 15, SAMEKH).

I hate those who are double-minded,  
 But I love Your law.  
**114** You are my hiding place and my shield;  
 I wait for Your word.  
**115** Depart from me, evildoers,  
 That I may observe the commandments of my God.  
**116** Sustain me according to Your word, that I may live;  
 And do not let me be ashamed of my hope.  
**117** Uphold me that I may be safe,  
 That I may have regard for Your statutes continually.  
**118** You have rejected all those who wander from Your statutes,  
 For their deceitfulness is useless.  
**119** You have removed all the wicked of the earth *like* dross;  
 Therefore I love Your testimonies.  
**120** My flesh trembles for fear of You,  
 And I am afraid of Your judgments.

**[v119]** “You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross...” As Coffman suggests, this must refer to the judgment, because Christ taught that the wicked will live with the righteous unto His coming. The parable of the “tares” (Mt. 13:28-30) is explained in Mt. 13:38-41.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, “When Dealing With Vanity:

1. Avoid vain thoughts (119:113,114).

- a. Reflect on your salvation (119:113).
- b. Utilize the Word.
- c. Keep proper company (119:115). Vain thoughts are the products of vain company.
- d. Do the right you know to do (119:115).
2. Avoid vain people (119:115,116).
  - a. Purpose to keep the commandments of God (119:115).
  - b. Avoid the vain person (119:115).
  - c. Seek God's help in accordance to the Word.
3. Avoid vain directions (119:117-120).
  - a. Realize vain directions are the products of vain thoughts.
  - b. Have respect unto the statutes.
  - c. Realize punishment is to be had when vain directions are taken (119:118).
  - d. Remember that God is the separator of the dross (vain) and the silver (eternal).
  - e. Consider your end if you choose a vain direction (119:120)."

P. Prayer for Salvation from Oppressors and for Understanding of God's Law (119:121-128).  
(Strophe 16, AYIN).

I have done justice and righteousness;

Do not leave me to my oppressors.

**122** Be surety for Your servant for good;

Do not let the arrogant oppress me.

**123** My eyes fail *with longing* for Your salvation

And for Your righteous word.

**124** Deal with Your servant according to Your lovingkindness

And teach me Your statutes.

**125** I am Your servant; give me understanding,

That I may know Your testimonies.

**126** It is time for the LORD to act,

*For* they have broken Your law.

**127** Therefore I love Your commandments

Above gold, yes, above fine gold.

**128** Therefore I esteem right all *Your* precepts concerning everything,

I hate every false way.

**[v121]** Coffman points out that about all of the expressions in this stanza have been used in other lines of this psalm. He also points out that there are few Hebrew words beginning with *ayin*, and therefore the lines of this stanza are more awkward than most others. It is also a probable reason for the word "therefore" beginning the last two lines.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, "When the Wicked Are at Work:

1. Expect opposition (119:121).
2. Seek tokens from the Lord (119:122), see Psa. 86:17.
3. Learn the statutes and follow them (119:124).
4. Seek understanding from the Lord (119:125).
5. Work (119:126).
6. Love the Book (119:127).
7. Take the Bible road (119:128)."

Q. Prayer for Redemption from Oppressors Who Break God's Law which Gives Light (119:129-136).  
(Strophe 17, PE).

Your testimonies are wonderful;

Therefore my soul observes them.

**130** The unfolding of Your words gives light;

It gives understanding to the simple.

**131** I opened my mouth wide and panted,

For I longed for Your commandments.

- 132** Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
After Your manner with those who love Your name.
- 133** Establish my footsteps in Your word,  
And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.
- 134** Redeem me from the oppression of man,  
That I may keep Your precepts.
- 135** Make Your face shine upon Your servant,  
And teach me Your statutes.
- 136** My eyes shed streams of water,  
Because they do not keep Your law.

**[v130]** “The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding...” We have already noticed the frequent use of this figure. True understanding comes from true knowledge. Great wars have plagued the world because brilliant men lead others in the wrong way.

**[v131]** “I opened my mouth and panted...” As an exhausted animal or person gasps for air, those who love God’s word long for it.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, “When Combating Sin and Its Dominion:

1. Elevate the Book (119:129), there is a direct relationship between wonderment and obedience.
2. Open the Book (119:130), it defines sin.  
See Prov. 21:4; 24:9; Rom. 14:23; Jas. 4:17; 1Jo. 3:4; 5:17.
3. Long for the Book (119:131).
4. Follow the Book (119:133).
5. Learn the Book (119:135).
6. Evaluate with the Book (119:136) To prevent the dominion of sin you must topple it at the first sign of anarchy.”

R. Like Himself God’s Law is Righteous; Be Zealous for It; and do Not Forget It (119:137-144).  
(Strophe 18, TSADHE).

Righteous are You, O LORD,

And upright are Your judgments.

- 138** You have commanded Your testimonies in righteousness  
And exceeding faithfulness.
- 139** My zeal has consumed me,  
Because my adversaries have forgotten Your words.
- 140** Your word is very pure,  
Therefore Your servant loves it.
- 141** I am small and despised,  
Yet I do not forget Your precepts.
- 142** Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness,  
And Your law is truth.
- 143** Trouble and anguish have come upon me,  
Yet Your commandments are my delight.
- 144** Your testimonies are righteous forever;  
Give me understanding that I may live.

**[v137]** “Righteous are You, O Lord...” Here God’s righteousness is acknowledged and attributed to his word by several synonyms. J.W. Burns says:

1. God’s judgments are upright (119:137).
2. His testimonies are righteous (119:138).
3. God’s righteousness is everlasting (119:142).
4. All of His law is truth (119:142).
5. His commandments are a delight (119:143).
6. His testimonies are eternal (119:144).

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, “When Doubts arise:

1. When everything else is upside down, remember God is right (119:138).

2. What God commands of us is right (119:138).
3. Remember the Word of the Lord is pure (119:140).
4. The precepts of the Word apply to everybody (119:141).
5. God's righteousness is the only righteousness that lasts (119:142).
6. When doubts come rely on the Book and not your feelings (119:143).
7. The Word will always be right (119:144)."

S. Prayer for Salvation from Enemies in the Presence of Great Peril (119:145-152). (Strophe 19, QOPH).

I cried with all my heart; answer me, O LORD!

I will observe Your statutes.

**146** I cried to You; save me

And I shall keep Your testimonies.

**147** I rise before dawn and cry for help;

I wait for Your words.

**148** My eyes anticipate the night watches,

That I may meditate on Your word.

**149** Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness;

Revive me, O LORD, according to Your ordinances.

**150** Those who follow after wickedness draw near;

They are far from Your law.

**151** You are near, O LORD,

And all Your commandments are truth.

**152** Of old I have known from Your testimonies

That You have founded them forever.

**[v145]** "I cry out with my whole heart; hear me..." God will certainly not hear half-hearted prayer.

Prayers are sometimes offered that emphasize the eloquence of man to be heard of men, but Jesus assures us that the praise of men is the only reward those prayers will receive.

**[v150]** "They draw near who follow after wickedness; they are far from Your Law." Anytime we follow wickedness we are far from God and His law. A Christian is often afflicted when the wicked draws near to him.

**[v151]** "You are near, O Lord..." Our only hope when the wicked draw near to us is to stay even closer to God. This is such a comforting thought that many songs have been written and sung about being near to God: "Nearer My God To Thee," "Nearer, Still Nearer," and "Nearer To The Cross" are familiar examples.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, "When Mischief (the heinous) Abounds:

1. Pray (119:145). If we ate as zealously as we pray, most Christians would starve to death.
2. Pray for deliverance (119:146).
3. Pray early in the morning (119:147).
4. Pray based on the Word (119:147).
5. Pray late at night (119:148).
6. Pray while obeying (119:148).
7. Pray relying on God (119:149).
8. Pray but draw near to God (119:151).
9. Pray remembering what God has done (119:152)."

T. Hope in God's Law Supports Prayer for Salvation from Enemies (119:153-160). (Strophe 20, RESH).

Look upon my affliction and rescue me,

For I do not forget Your law.

**154** Plead my cause and redeem me;

Revive me according to Your word.

**155** Salvation is far from the wicked,

For they do not seek Your statutes.

**156** Great are Your mercies, O LORD;

Revive me according to Your ordinances.

157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,  
*Yet I do not turn aside from Your testimonies.*  
 158 I behold the treacherous and loathe *them*,  
 Because they do not keep Your word.  
 159 Consider how I love Your precepts;  
 Revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness.  
 160 The sum of Your word is truth,  
 And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

[v154,156,159] "...revive me according to Your word... according to Your judgments... according to Your lovingkindness." This should be a common theme to all of our prayers.

[v155] "Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Your statutes." It is amazing how many people who do not seek God's word or enjoy reading it still think they will be saved. Paul affirmed that salvation comes through a knowledge of God's word (2Tim. 3:15).

[v153,157,158] "Consider my affliction... for I do not forget Your law... I do not turn from Your testimonies. I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, because they do not keep Your word." It is hoped that these four reasons to relieve his afflictions are also in our lives.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, "When Needing to Identify the Wicked:

1. The wicked allow affliction to dim their memory and derail their spiritual life (119:153).
2. The wicked look to themselves for deliverance (119:154).
3. The wicked will not seek for that which is right (119:155).
4. The wicked allow people to derail them (119:157).
5. The wicked will not keep the Word (119:158).
6. The wicked have no love for the Book (119:159)."

U. Praises for God's Law and Hopes for Salvation Despite Persecution (119:161-168).  
 (Strophe 21, SIN, SHIN).

*Princes persecute me without cause,  
 But my heart stands in awe of Your words.*  
 162 I rejoice at Your word,  
 As one who finds great spoil.  
 163 I hate and despise falsehood,  
*But I love Your law.*  
 164 Seven times a day I praise You,  
 Because of Your righteous ordinances.  
 165 Those who love Your law have great peace,  
 And nothing causes them to stumble.  
 166 I hope for Your salvation, O LORD,  
 And do Your commandments.  
 167 My soul keeps Your testimonies,  
 And I love them exceedingly.  
 168 I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies,  
 For all my ways are before You.

[v161] "Princes persecute me without a cause..." This calls to mind when Saul was pursuing David and trying to kill him. At that time David was a servant of Saul and not of royalty. But sometimes princes persecuted other royalty as well as common citizens. Throughout this stanza the psalmist declares his love for God's word and his abhorrence of what is evil.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, "When Stumbling Blocks Abound:

1. Stand in awe of the Word (119:161).
2. Rejoice at the Word (119:162).
3. Hate the lie; love the truth (119:163).
4. Praise God (119:164).
- f. Obey (119:166)."

V. Acknowledging Sin, Praying for Salvation and Vowing to Continue with Lip, Tongue, and Soul.  
(119:169-176). (Strophe 22, TAV).

Let my cry come before You, O LORD;

Give me understanding according to Your word.

170 Let my supplication come before You;

Deliver me according to Your word.

171 Let my lips utter praise,

For You teach me Your statutes.

172 Let my tongue sing of Your word,

For all Your commandments are righteousness.

173 Let Your hand be ready to help me,

For I have chosen Your precepts.

174 I long for Your salvation, O LORD,

And Your law is my delight.

175 Let my soul live that it may praise You,

And let Your ordinances help me.

176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant,

For I do not forget Your commandments.

**[v170,171,172,175]** The psalmist describes many ways of praising the Lord: “Let my supplication come before you... My lips shall utter praise... My tongue shall speak of Your Word... Let my soul live, and it shall praise You...”

**[v176]** “I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant...” (Isa. 53:6). This is a familiar figure for those who are familiar with the Bible.

**[Summary]** Ray Warren says, “Instructions for Life in General:

1. Pray for your prayers (119:169).  
There are biblical reasons that God will not answer your prayers.
2. Pray regularly (119:170).  
You get regular answers to prayers when you pray regularly.
3. Praise God (119:171).
4. Tell of God and His Word (119:172).
5. Work (119:173).
6. Wait on God (119:174).
7. Live life to its fullest (119:175).”